

Patent Claims

1. An apparatus for forming stacks of products (17),  
having
  - 5 1.1 an essentially horizontal continuously movable  
row of compartments (1),
  - 1.2 a feed device (5) which
    - 1.2.1 conveys individual products (17) one behind the  
other to a discharge location above the row of  
10 compartments (1) and
    - 1.2.2 allows the products (17) to drop into the  
compartments (1), or casts them into the same,  
and having
  - 1.3 a guide device which
    - 15 1.3.1 guides in each case one product (17) between  
the discharge location of the feed device and  
the compartment (1) assigned to the product  
(17).
- 20 2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
distance between the discharge end (10) of the feed  
device (5) and the top edge (11) of partitions between  
the compartments (1) is greater than half the length of  
the products (17), as measured in the movement  
25 direction.
3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein  
the guide device has at least two directing elements  
(12) which are moved along synchronously with the row  
30 of compartments (1) and are preferably designed as  
guide blades.
4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the  
directing elements (12) are arranged such that they  
35 form an extension of that compartment (1) of the row of  
compartments (1) which is assigned to the discharge  
location.

5. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the guide device is arranged such that it is only active in the region of the transfer location between the feed device (5) and the row of  
5 compartments.

6. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the guide device operates in circulation.  
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7. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the guide device has a plurality of circulating directing elements (12) of which the route in the region of the transfer location coincides with  
15 the path of the row of compartments.

8. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the directing elements (12) are guided such that the directing element (12) arranged between two  
20 products is moved out transversely to the movement direction of the row of compartments.

9. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the directing elements (12) are fitted on a  
25 chain (14).